



Every Department has a story ...

# KENTUCKY



Dear Commander Moses,  
I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the American Legion of Kentucky on your upcoming Centennial Celebration. I hold the highest esteem for those who serve our nation, and believe our veterans and their families are owed a debt of gratitude that can never truly be paid. The devotion and dedication of those serving in Kentucky's 139 Posts, along with the support of the Auxiliaries, has made a lasting impact on the lives of your fellow veterans. As well, the support of the American Legion for projects in communities across the Commonwealth is to be commended. Thank you again for your tremendous dedication. I appreciate the partnership that I, and my staff, have with your tremendous organization and know your hard work is deeply appreciated by those whom you serve.

Sincerely,

Rand Paul, M.D.  
United States Senator

**M**ajor Maurice Kirby Gordon, who gave The American Legion its name at the Paris Caucus in March of 1919 lived quietly in Madisonville, Kentucky for the remainder of his life. The veteran of the 36th Infantry Division continued his law practice well into his nineties. The city of Madisonville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky share Major Gordon's pride in his Legion role, erecting an historical marker west of the city which sites him for giving the American Legion its name. Judge Gordon died in 1974. His personal papers and archives are in the possession of the Western Kentucky University Library, Bowling Green.



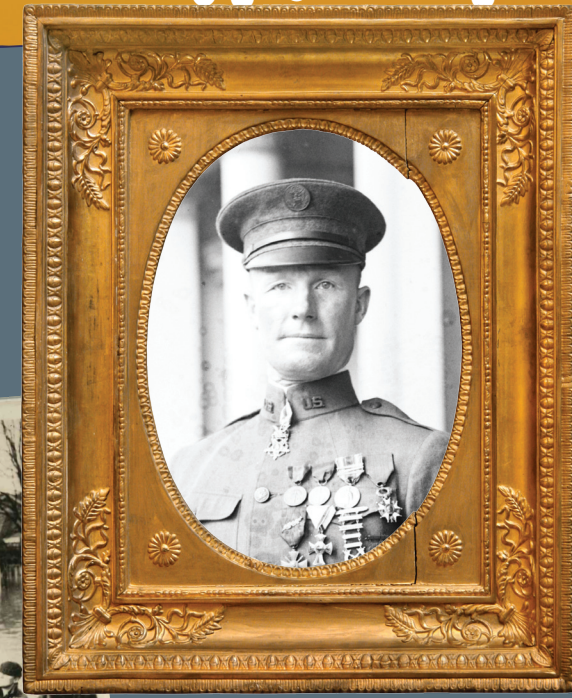
**T**he Commonwealth of Kentucky entered the Union in 1792 as the 15th state. It has produced a multitude of military leaders and statesmen. The formation of the American Legion, Department of Kentucky took place in Louisville in May, 1919.



## The Man Who Named The Legion



Above, a Department of Kentucky delegates badge of 1922. Above, right, Ky. Legionnaires of Post 5 assist in the rooftop rescue of Louisville victims in the 1937 flood.



**Samuel Woodfill** ( 1883-1951 ) was a Major in the United States Army. He was a veteran of the Philippine-American War, World War I, and World War II. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions of October, 1918 in France. He was among three soldiers, all Medal of Honor recipients, to be pallbearers for the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 1921. So legendary was Woodfill's renown that 11 years after the war, a Polish Army delegation presented him two decorations at the American Legion National Convention at Louisville, Kentucky in 1929.

**Did You Know?**  
General John Pershing considered **Samuel Woodfill** of Fort Thomas Ky. "The Greatest Soldier of World War I."

At left, a linen postcard of the 1930's depicting the iconic Art Deco facade of Post 40, Henderson, Ky.



Want to know more about the Department of Kentucky ?  
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**William O. Moore, Jr., Chair**